

L'hon. Lena Metlege Diab, c.r., CENE, députée Ministre des Affaires acadiennes et de la Francophonie

C.P. 682, Halifax (Nouvelle-Écosse) B3J 2T3 902 424 0497, https://acadien.novascotia.ca

June 15, 2021

Warden Danny Muise Municipality of the District of Argyle 27 Courthouse Road Tusket, NS B0W 3M0 <u>dmuise@munargyle.com</u>

Dear Warden Danny Muise:

The Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie (OAAF) and the Department of Transportation and Active Transit are in the process of making changes to the *Traffic Signs Regulations* to allow bilingual (French/English) stop signs in Nova Scotia. This change will enable the replacement of English stop signs with bilingual ones. It is not mandatory and there is no cost for the replacement of unilingual stop signs to bilingual stop signs on provincial roads.

This change is a result of Acadian students from Clare who suggested the idea as part of the planning for the Congrés Mondial Acadien which will be held in Clare and Argyle in 2024. The Province is taking the opportunity to support the preservation of the language in Acadian communities that want to promote their linguistic and cultural heritage.

Your community has been identified as one with Acadian and French culture and history, or having a landmark or site that is of special interest to the Acadian community. Therefore, the OAAF would like to extend the offer to fund the replacement of bilingual stop signs that are located on <u>provincially-owned roads</u> in your community.

We are writing to determine your level of interest in this initiative and request that this item be added to the next available meeting agenda for your Council. We require a written response (email or letter) indicating if this is something that interests your community as soon as possible.

While we are still working out details for timelines around installation of such signs, your response will assist with planning.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Bannerman, Executive Director, of the Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie, at 902-424-3821 or <u>Mark.Bannerman@novasotia.ca</u>. He is also available to present and discuss at your council meeting, should you wish.

Sincerely,

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Lena Metlege Diab, c.r., C.E.N.E. Minister

CC: Mark Peck, Associate Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs Mark Bannerman, Executive Director, of the Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie